

1 1. In a home entertainment system that includes a central device, a display
2 device and a recording system, a method for operating the recording system to record a
3 signal, the method comprising the steps for:

4 connecting a central device directly to a display device and to a recording
5 system, such that any signal that reaches the recording system must be transmitted
6 from the central device to the recording system;

7 storing an electronic programming guide at the central device;

8 transmitting programming information included in the electronic
9 programming guide from the central device to the recording system;

10 transmitting a signal carrying programming from the central device to the
11 recording system;

12 recording the programming information at the recording system; and

13 recording the signal at the recording system.

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15 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps for:

16 connecting an electronics device directly to the central device; and

17 prior to the step for transmitting the signal from the central device,
18 transmitting the signal from the electronics device to the central device.

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20 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the central device is an Internet
21 terminal.

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4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step for receiving, at the central device, the signal from a source of programming prior to the step for transmitting the signal from the central device.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for recording the programming information further includes the step for recording information relevant to the programming carried by the signal in an index on a recording medium, wherein the information relevant to the programming includes the location of the recorded programming on the recording medium and information obtained from the electronic programming guide.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the title of the programming and the frame number are recorded in one of the vertical blanking interval or the overscan area of the signal.

1 7. In a home entertainment system including a recording system, a central
2 device connected to the recording system, and a programming source, a method of recording
3 a program carried by a signal, the method comprising the steps for:

4 storing an electronic programming guide at the central device;

5 recording, at the recording system, programming information included in the
6 electronic programming guide;

7 locating, at the recording system, space on a recording medium for recording
8 the program; and

9 recording the program on the recording medium, wherein the programming
10 information references the program.

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12 8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step for locating space includes
13 the steps for:

14 determining from the space on the recording medium whether enough free
15 space is available for recording the entire program; and

16 going to a location on the recording medium upon which the recording of the
17 program will begin.

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19 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step for locating space is
20 performed automatically.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step for instructing, by
2 a user of the home entertainment system, the central device to automatically initiate the step
3 for recording the program.

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5 11. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step for recording programming
6 information comprises the step for transmitting the programming information from the
7 central device to the recording system.

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9 12. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the programming information
10 includes the title of the program.

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12 13. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the programming information
13 includes a description of the program.

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15 14. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step for recording the program
16 comprises the steps for:

17 inserting, by the central device, a title of the program in a vertical blanking
18 interval or an overscan portion of the signal; and
19 recording the title at the recording system.

1 15. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein after the step for recording the
2 program, the method further comprises the steps for:

3 going to a specified location on the recording medium; and
4 storing index information at the specified location, wherein the index
5 information references the programming.
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7 16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the step for storing the index
8 information comprises the steps for:

9 inserting, by the central device, the index information in a vertical blanking
10 or an overscan area of an index signal; and
11 storing the index signal at the specified location on the recording medium.
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13 17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein after the step for recording the
14 signal, the method further comprises the step for reading, by the central device, the index
15 information.
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17 18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein after the step for reading the index
18 information, the method further comprises steps for:

19 displaying a list of contents, wherein the list of contents includes a
20 description of the programming recorded on the recording medium; and
21 selecting, by a user of the home entertainment system, the programming from the list
22 of contents.
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19. A method as defined in claim 18, further comprising the steps for:
identifying a location of the recording medium where the signal is stored
based on the index information; and
reading the signal and playing the recorded program.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the step for selecting is performed
by a remote control device.

21. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein the act of playing is performed on a
display device.

1 22. In an entertainment system that includes a central device connected to a
2 plurality of electronic consumer devices, a computer program product for implementing a
3 method for managing the recording of audio and/or video signals in the entertainment
4 system, the computer program product comprising:

5 a computer-readable medium carrying executable instructions for performing
6 the method, wherein the method includes the steps for:

7 storing an electronic program guide at a central device;

8 receiving input from a user for recording programming on a specific
9 channel;

10 transmitting programming information included in the electronic
11 program guide from the central device to a recording system;

12 recording the programming at the recording system on a recording
13 medium; and

14 indexing, on the recording medium, programming recorded on the
15 recording medium, wherein the indexing includes programming information
16 from the electronic program guide and the location on the recording medium
17 where the programming was recorded.

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19 23. A computer program product as recited in claim 22, wherein the input
20 received is transmitted from a user through a remote control device.

1 24. In an entertainment system that includes a central device connected to a
2 plurality of electronic consumer devices, a computer program product for implementing a
3 method for managing the playing of recorded programming that includes audio and/or video
4 signals on the entertainment system, the computer program product comprising:

5 a computer-readable medium carrying executable instructions for performing
6 the method, wherein the method includes the steps for:

7 displaying an index that includes the programming recorded on a
8 recording medium;

9 receiving input from a user, wherein the input selects from the index a
10 program to be played;

11 going to a location on the recording medium where the initial portion
12 of the programming was recorded; and

13 playing the program.

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15 25. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the input
16 received is transmitted from a user by a remote control device.